

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4441

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 3424

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, CS

SUBJECT: REACTION TO BICENTENNIAL IN COSTA RICA

REF: STATE 169682

1. DEPTH OF GENUINE COSTA RICAN GOOD FEELING TOWARD U.S. WAS EVIDENCED DURING BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION. COSTA RICANS IDENTIFY WITH SURVIVAL OF U.S. SYSTEM BECAUSE THEIRS IS A FUNCTIONING FACSIMILE OF U.S. DEMOCRACY, INSTITUTIONS, AND ASPIRATIONS; NOTION OF A SHARED PRIDE WOVE ITS WAY INTO PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND PRIVATE CONGRATULATIONV.

2. PRESIDENT AND MRS. ODUBER, WHO NEVER ATTEND NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS, MINGLED WITH COLONY AT A TRADITIONAL U.S. COMMUNITY PICNIC (4,000 IN ATTENDANCE) AT EMBASSY RESIDENCE. FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO LATER AT SAME CELEBRATION DELIVERED AN ORIGINALLY RESEARCHED ADDRESS ON THE LIVING U.S. CONSTITUTION.

3. RADIO AND TELEVISION COVERED SPECIAL BICENTENNIAL PROGRAMMING. ONE RADIO STATION BROADCAST 18 HOURS OF BICENTENNIAL AMERICANA PROGRAMMING IN SPANISH ON THE 4TH. NEWSPAPERS INCLUDED NUMEROUS PAID CONGRATULATORY ADS. A NOTED ARTIST DEDICATED HIS EXHIBIT LE THE BICENTENNIAL. THREE LEADING DAILIES DEVOTED THEIR ENTIRE JULY 4 EDITORIAL SPACES TO BICENTENNIAL--IN ADDITION TO CARRYING LENGTHY SUPPLEMENTS FULL OF ARTICLES ON REVOLUTION, CONSTITUTIO FN AND OTHER HISTORICAL U.S. THEMES. PRO-GOVERNMENT EXCELSIOR CITED "HISTORY OF NOBLE, FREE, AND EQUITABLE RELATIONS...BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES

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OF SUCH DIFFERENT SIZE." OPPOSITION LA REPUBLICA

SPOKE OF U.S. PRAGMATISM AND SPIRIT OF SELF CRITICISM,
GENEROSITY OF ITS PEOPLE, AND THEIR NATURAL GOODNESS,"
AND NOTED THAT 'U.S. ACCOMPLISHMENTS, VIRTUES, AND CONTRIBUTIONS
TO PROGRESS OF MAN OVERCOME BY MUCH ITS EXTRAVAGANT
ACTIONS AND ITS ERRORS.'" LEADING DAILY LA NACION SPOKE
OF A "200-YEAR-OLD DEMOCRACY STILL YOUNG, WITH ENERGY
TO CORRECT ERRORS, EMBARKED ON ITS THIRD CENTURY WITH AN
EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE, AND A NEW PROJECTION, PURIFIED
AND FORTIFIED BY THE DEMOCRATIC IDEALS THAT GAVE IT BIRTH."
TODMAN

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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